



Lesson 9 – Teacher notes

The first half of the lesson is devoted to the three guidelines

- 1 Second hand plays low
- 2 Cover an honour with an honour – This is the most frequent exception to “second hand plays low”. Only cover if there is a hope that you can promote a card for your side. Don’t cover the first of a sequence of honours, cover the last.
- 3 Third hand plays high but only as high as you need to

The second half deals with three basic standard leads

- 1 Top of a sequence of touching honours
- 2 Low for like
- 3 High for hate

Comparison between leads in NT and in a suit contract

No Trumps

Lead a **long** suit

Top of **three** touching honours

Low for like – 4th highest in a long suit

High for hate. Use rule of 11.

Suit contracts

long suits are likely to be **ruffed**

Top of **two** touching honours

Singleton in side suit

Passive high for hate

low from suit with an honour

Note different order of priority

1 In NT attack a **long suit** hoping to establish length tricks so **aggressive**, **attacking** leads are top of honour lead and low for like. Both these ask for **cooperation** from partner who should **lead the suit back** if possible.

2 Attacking leads ask for the suit to be returned as in NT but In a suit contract, **passive** high for hate leads which give nothing away are more common than in NT.

Lead partner’s suit back if he asks for your cooperation. From a 3 card suit lead back the higher of your remaining cards to avoid the risk of **blocking** the suit.

Hand 1 North dealer, both **non vulnerable**, 4♥ by **NORTH**, 2nd hand plays low, 3rd hand plays high play high cards from the short hand first.

- Hand 2** East dealer, N/S **vulnerable**, 3NT by **EAST** – Declarer applies the rule of 11, cover an honour with an honour if there is the possibility of promoting a card.
- Hand 3** South dealer, E/W **non-vulnerable**. 4♥ by **SOUTH**, Lead top of two touching honours in a suit contract. Cover an honour with an honour if there is a hope of promoting a card.
- Hand 4** West dealer, **all vulnerable**, - 3NT by **WEST**. Low for like lead. 3rd hand plays high. Return partner's suit but remember to return the correct card to avoid blocking the suit.
- Hand 5** North dealer, N/S **vulnerable**, 3NT by **NORTH**, 4th highest lead, rule of 11, 3rd hand plays high, cash high cards from the short hand first.
- Hand 6** East dealer, E/W **vulnerable** 3NT by **EAST**- 4th highest lead, defenders also use the rule of 11, 3rd hand plays high, return partner's lead taking care you lead back the correct card, 2nd hand plays low.
- Hand 7** South dealer, **all vulnerable**, 2♥ by **NORTH**, top of rubbish lead, interpret the lead, consider that possibility that the lead was a singleton, 3rd hand plays high but only as high as you need to. Make life difficult for your opponents, use a transfer bid after a 1NT opening with a 5card Major suit especially if very weak
- Hand 8** West dealer, **non vulnerable**, 4♠ by **WEST**. Defender give attitude signal on the initial lead- discouraging "High for Hate" Look carefully at the cards visible to work out if a card played is high or low. It is not always obvious!